

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please Substitute the following paragraphs [0005], [0006], [0008] and [0026] with the following amended paragraphs:

**[0005]** According to the invention, this object is achieved by a receiving element for the ball neck that is fastened to the vehicle body, and the ball neck is ~~swivellably~~ held to be swivelled and supported in an inserted rotary block and, in the operative position, the latter is held in possible loading directions (W, W1, X, X1, Z, Y) in a stationary manner in the receiving element.

**[0006]** Principal advantages achieved with the invention are that, in all possible loading directions, the towing device can carry out no movements from the operative position during the operation and is held in a positionally stable and force-transmitting manner at the vehicle body or at the bumper carrier. This is achieved essentially by a receiving element for the ball neck, which is fastened to the vehicle body and is ~~swivellably~~ held to be swivelled in an inserted rotary block which, in the operative position, is held by supports and similar supporting devices in possible loading directions stationarily positioned in the receiving element.

**[0008]** For the ~~swivellability~~ swivelling of the towing device from an operative position into an inoperative position and back, the present invention provides that the ball neck can be swivelled by an angularly bent joined arm in a rotary block held in the carrier part about a vertical axis. The rotary block itself

with the ball neck can be swivelled about a horizontal axis. This ~~swivellability~~ swivelling capability of the rotary block in the carrier part for positioning the ball neck in the operative and inoperative position requires targeted supports in the receiving element as well as on parts of the device. Thus the towing device remains positionally stable in all possible directions during the towing operation.

[0026] The ~~swivellability~~ swivelling capability of the ball neck 3 into the inoperative and operative position takes place via the spindle adjusting element 8 in connection with the rotary block 5. For this purpose, a spindle rod 8a of the adjusting element 8 with a self-locking thread is rotated into a tapped bush 8b by the electrically driven motor 7. Thereby, the swivelling lever 6 fixedly connected with the joined arm 4 swivels in the direction of the arrow 17 (Figure 2) while taking along the ball neck 3 about the vertical axis 14a. When an approximately straight-line position of the spindle adjusting element 8 and the ball neck 3 has been achieved, the rotary block 5, as a whole, swivels about the horizontal axis 14 (Figure 3), which is formed by a rotating bush or a pin 13 which is held in the legs 11, 12 of the carrier part 10 and, for the swivelling of the rotary block 5, has one stop disk 20, 20a respectively on its ends. The stop disks 20, 20a rest against the interior side of the legs 11, 12.